



IDEM Permit Guide

Asbestos Removal Requirements for Demolition or Renovation Activities

Where in Indiana is Vehicle Testing Required?

During the long, warm days of summer, sunlight, oxygen and water vapor react with VOCs (volatile organic compounds, such as gasoline fumes) and NOX (oxides of nitrogen, a byproduct of incomplete combustion), to form ozone, a criteria pollutant under the Clean Air Act. Cars and light duty trucks emit 30% to 50% of the pollutants (VOCs and NOX) that cause ozone. In turn, approximately 80% of that vehicle-related pollution is caused by only 20% of the vehicles on the road.

Under the 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act, non-attainment areas (areas not attaining the standards for the criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act) for ozone were classified on an ascending scale beginning with marginal and continuing upward through moderate, serious, and severe, to extreme. All ozone non-attainment areas classified as moderate, or higher, must have a motor vehicle inspection and maintenance program.

In Indiana, Lake and Porter Counties are classified as severe for ozone. As of October, 2001, Clark and Floyd counties were redesignated as being in attainment for Ozone, though these areas are still considered "Maintenance Areas" and vehicle emissions testing is still required in these counties as specified in 326 IAC 13-1.1-2(a) (scroll to approximately page 3, "Applicability").

The Indiana Clear Air Car Check Program

The Indiana vehicle inspection and maintenance program for reducing auto emissions is known as the Clean Air Car Check. Test site operators are contracted by IDEM, which oversees the program under authority of 326 IAC 13 (see Article 13, "Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards," Rules 1.1 through 17.1). By inspecting vehicles on a regular basis, the program can identify those high emitting vehicles whose emissions can be reduced by proper authorized repair. There is no fee for the test.

There are seven Clean Air Car Check test sites in Lake and Porter Counties in Northwest Indiana (Chicago Metropolitan Area). Clark and Floyd Counties (Louisville Metropolitan Area), in Southeast Indiana also have two test sites. Each car, and all light and medium duty trucks with a gross weight of less than 9,000 pounds, which is 1) more than four years old, and 2) which is registered within the affected counties must be tested biannually. The owners of vehicles registered within the affected counties which are subject to the testing requirement receive a testing reminder notice from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) along with their annual registration renewal form which will have "Emission Test Required" printed on it if the vehicle is due for a test. A certificate of compliance shall be issued to owners or operators of motor vehicles that pass the emissions test and tampering inspection.

What is Required to Pass the Inspection?

The test is a simple three-step process:

1. An inspector completes a basic visual inspection. The driver exits the vehicle. The inspector verifies the presence of the catalytic converter, where applicable, and conducts a gas cap pressure check.
2. For a 1981 or newer vehicle, the inspector drives the vehicle up to 33 mph on a treadmill device (a dynamometer) to allow it to operate normally. Emissions are collected as the vehicle drives. For a 1976 through 1980 model year vehicle, the inspector checks the vehicle while it is idling.
3. The driver returns to the vehicle and the inspector provides the emissions check results and additional information as needed.

What About Vehicles Which Fail Inspection?

Vehicles that fail the visual tampering inspection must have appropriate exhaust system work done or have a new gas cap installed, whichever is applicable, before being allowed to retest. Vehicles that fail the emissions test must have repair work done, and have that work documented on the Repair Data Form, located on the back of the Indiana vehicle Inspection Report, before the vehicle will be allowed to retest. In Lake or Porter County a vehicle may be retested as many times as needed until the vehicle passes the test. In Clark or Floyd County, after an initial I/M emission test failure, a vehicle may be retested up to four (4) additional times. A vehicle shall not be retested a fifth time until the vehicle has been examined by a state appointed Emission Repair Referee. The referee will evaluate the vehicle and suggest repair strategies. Vehicles subject to retesting may not be issued a certificate of compliance for registration renewal by the BMV until they have either passed a vehicle inspection, or been issued a waiver.

In order to qualify for a minimum expenditure waiver, motorists with 1981 model year or newer vehicles must first expend at least four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) at an Indiana Certified Emission Repair Facility for repairs on vehicles registered in Lake or Porter County, or at least two hundred dollars (\$200) for repairs at an Indiana Certified Emission Repair Facility on vehicles registered in Clark or Floyd County. Motorists in Clark, Floyd, Lake, or Porter County with 1976 through 1980 model year vehicles shall expend at least seventy-five dollars (\$75) in repairs in order to qualify for a minimum expenditure waiver. The repair work must be appropriate to the type of emission failure. The costs of owner performed repairs shall not include labor costs. No minimum expenditure waivers shall be issued to vehicles for tampering-related repairs. No vehicle in its lifetime shall receive more than one (1) waiver.

Exemptions

The following motor vehicles are exempt from the testing requirements of this rule:

1. Heavy duty motor vehicles (with a gross vehicle weight of more than 9000 pounds).
2. Motorcycles.
3. Motor vehicles with engine displacements less than two hundred (200) cubic centimeters.
4. Farm tractors, farm trucks, and farm equipment used in connection with agricultural pursuits usual and normal to the user's primary operation.
5. Motor vehicles registered as recreational vehicles (RV).
6. Motor vehicles using diesel fuel.
7. All motor vehicles with a chassis year and engine year prior to 1976 as identified by the vehicle identification number and the engine identification number.
8. Electric vehicles or vehicles that have been certified by the department as being electric.
9. Off highway construction equipment.

For Additional Information

If you need additional information, please call the Clean Air Car Check toll-free hotline at 1-888-240-1684.

Or, you may contact

Phil Doyle
Phone: 317/232-8420
E-mail: pdoyle@dem.state.in.us

or, if Phil Doyle is not available, contact

Deborah Cole
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You can also visit the IDEM Office of Air Quality Indiana's Vehicle Emissions Testing Program webpage.

<http://www.in.gov/idem/guides/permit/air/vehicleemissionstesting.html>

Disclaimer

This permit guide is intended to provide background information which should be useful in planning for a particular project that may require an environmental permit. It does not substitute for consultation with the appropriate regulatory agency and/or the appropriate rules or statute.